

KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, 2002/2003 FISHING YEAR
PRELIMINARY LANDINGS, STATUS OF QUOTAS, AND DAILY VESSEL TRIP/LANDING LIMITS (IN POUNDS)¹

February 21, 2003 (#18)

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SPECIES/ GROUP	ZONE/ SUBZONE/ GEAR/FISHERY	QUOTA	ESTIMATED LANDINGS (Ending Date ²)	% OF QUOTA	DAILY TRIP/ LANDING LIMIT ³	AREA FOR DAILY LIMITS	CURRENT STATUS Beginning/Ending Dates
<i>KING MACKEREL MIGRATORY GROUPS:</i>							
<u>ATLANTIC</u>		3,710,000	1,506,738 (01/31/2003)	(40.6%)	3,500 lb	NY - FL (Flagler/Volusia)	Opened:04/01/2002
<u>GULF</u>	WESTERN ZONE Hook-and-line	1,010,000	1,010,000 (10/25/2002)	(100.0%)	0 lb	Texas - Alabama	Closed :10/25/2002 Opens: 07/01/2003
	EASTERN ZONE East Coast Subzone ⁴ Hook-and-line	2,250,000 1,040,625	287,907 (12/31/2002)	(27.7%)	75 Fish ⁵	Florida Flagler/Volusia - Miami-Dade/Monroe	Opened: 11/01/2002 Closed: 03/31/2002
	West Coast Subzones <u>Northern</u> Hook-and-line	1,209,375 168,750	183,461 (12/03/2002)	(108.7%)	0 lb ⁶	AL/FL - Lee/Collier	Closed: 11/30/2002 Opens: 07/01/2003
	<u>Southern</u> Hook-and-line	1,040,625 520,312	273,230 (02/20/2003)	(52.5%)	1,250 lb ⁶	Lee/Collier -Monroe/Miami-Dade	Opened: 07/01/2002 Closed: 03/23/2002
	Gillnet	520,312	468,779 (02/04/2003)	(90.1%)	0 lb	Lee/Collier- Monroe/Miami-Dade	Closed: 02/04/2003 Opens: 01/20/2004
<i>SPANISH MACKEREL MIGRATORY GROUPS:</i>							
<u>ATLANTIC</u>	Northern (NY-GA) Southern (FL)	3,870,000	2,276,124 (02/14/2003)	(58.8 %)	3,500 lb Unlimited (M-F) ⁷ 1,500 lb (Sat&Sun)	NY - GA FL	Opened:04/01/2002
<u>GULF</u>		5,187,000	1,114,086 (02/14/2003)	(21.5 %)	Unlimited	TX - FL	Opened:04/01/2002

¹ NOTE: This report is an unofficial summary of pertinent Federal regulations for the mackerel species and species groups specified. The landings information contained herein is based upon estimates that are subject to change or revision without prior notice as additional information becomes available. Information contained in this report does not relieve persons from abiding by the regulations promulgated under 50 CFR Part 622 or elsewhere which have been filed for publication or published in the Federal Register. Participants and others interested in these fisheries should closely monitor official sources such as the Federal regulations and the Federal Register, as well as the usual and customary sources of information such as NMFS or NOAA news releases or Southeast Fishery Bulletins, and broadcasts on NOAA Weather Radio Stations.

² Ending date of most recently received landings information ; "???" indicates projected ending date for landing estimates expected in the future.

³ Stated vessel trip limits are effective through March 31, 2003, unless an in-season trip limit reduction or fishery closure has been implemented on or before February 21, 2003.

⁴ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when Gulf group king mackerel extend into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in this area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

⁵ Trip limit would increase to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2003, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2003.

⁶ Trip limit reduces to 500 pounds/day when 75 percent (Northern Subzone: 126,563 pounds, Southern Subzone: 390,234 pounds) of quota is harvested. Northern subzone: 500-lb trip limit begins November 30, 2002.

⁷ Unlimited trip limit begins December 1 and continues until 75 percent or a projected 2.715 million pounds of the adjusted allocation is harvested. Daily trip limits during the "unlimited" season are: **unlimited** on Monday through Friday; and not to exceed **1,500** pounds on Saturday and Sunday. For the above commercial trip limits, a fishing day begins 6 AM and extends for 24 hours. Spanish mackerel taken in compliance with the trip limit schedule and retained on a vessel terminating a trip prior to 6 AM will not be considered in possession, provided the vessel is not underway after 6 AM and the fish are unloaded prior to 6 PM that same day.